City of Dallas

Park Safety and Security Strategic Plan

Park and Recreation Board
February 6, 2025

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Park and Recreation
City of Dallas

Presentation Overview

- Background
- Primary Focus Areas
  - Action Plans
  - Equipment & Infrastructure
  - Safety Strategy Guidelines
- Future Investments and Strategies
- Next Steps

Background

This presentation provides an update on the Park Safety and Security Strategic Plan. The presentation will highlight key accomplishments, milestones, and budgetary updates.

Primary Focus Areas

- Interagency Initiatives
- Community Engagement
- Equipment & Infrastructure Inventory
- Safety Strategy Guidelines

Primary Focus Area

INTERAGENCY INITIATIVES PROGRESS REPORT

Foster interagency coordination, collaboration, and integration across all agencies that contribute to preserving park safety and security

Collaborating Department	Description	FY23-24	FY24-25	Results/Outcome
DPD	• Special Assignments, Outreach, Summer Initiatives	~50 Meetings 26 Target Locations	~20 Meetings 3 Target Locations	• Managed strategies & developed action plans • Responded to illicit activities
Code Compliance	• Installation of illegal dumping signage and cameras • Keep Dallas Beautiful	3 Park locations 6 park locations	1 Park location 6 park locations	• No illegal dumping activity reported • Leveraged 12 parks/neighborhoods by promoting clean & safe communities

Primary Focus Area

INTERAGENCY INITIATIVES PROGRESS REPORT

Collaborating Department	Description	FY23-24	FY24-25	Results/Outcome
Office of Homeless Solutions	• Training – Verbal Judo, Notices of Violation, HAZMAT Awareness	✓	✓	• Training provided additional resources for staff safety and best practices
	• Decommissioned park properties	3	3	• Decommissioned sites: Craddock, Garrett, Cottonwood Trail, Harwood, Pacific Plaza, and Main Street Garden
	• Outreach Services provided by OHS	✓	✓	

Primary Focus Area

INTERAGENCY INITIATIVES PROGRESS REPORT

Collaborating Department	Description	FY23-24	FY24-25	Results/Outcome
Transportation and Public Works	• Parking Enforcement • Towing of unattended vehicles during park curfew and 24-hour parking violations	✓	✓	• Timberglen, Katie Jackson, William Blair, and Marcus • Results: Decreased unattended parking violations after park curfew

Primary Focus Area

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRESS REPORT

Proactively engage and involve the community to grow enthusiasm and support around efforts to maintain safe park facilities

Collaborating Department	Description/Strategy	FY23-24	FY24-25	Results/Outcome
DPD	• Volunteers in Patrol (VIP) Recruitment/training sessions for PKR	5 training sessions	February 2025 training session	• Swiss Avenue Neighborhood (pilot) • Increased park awareness/ monitoring
DPD Neighborhood Police Officer (NPO) units	• Monthly Community Crime Watch groups and Neighborhood Association meetings	✓	✓	• 40+ regional meetings hosted by PMO • Decreased illicit activity, & enhanced safety, and security for park users at Civic Garden, Valley View, Mildred Dunn, etc.

Primary Focus Area

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRESS REPORT

Community Connector Events

FY25 YTD - 6

FY24 - 17

Park Ranger Event/ Program Support

FY25 YTD - 26

FY24 - 92

Park Ranger Engagement with park patrons

FY25 YTD – 21, 406

FY24 – 67,871

Primary Focus Area – FY2023-24 Action Plan

Katie Jackson Park

Summary: Katie Jackson limited lighting, overcrowded parking

Strategy:

- ❖ Increased law enforcement presence
- ❖ Installed security cameras at the trailhead of the loop trail
- ❖ Installed loop trail lighting
- ❖ Installed signage in the parking lot to address parking after park curfew
- ❖ Towed cars in the parking lot to enforce the park's curfew from 11:00 PM-5:00AM
- ❖ North Central DPD monitoring schedule: 10:00 PM-4:00 AM, Friday-Monday
- ❖ Marshals First Watch schedule implemented
- ❖ Two (2) Weeks, twice daily visits from Park Rangers and Marshals

Outcome:

- ✓ 14 Parking Citations (Transportation & Public Works)
- ✓ 42 vehicles impounded (Marshals)
- ✓ Noticeable improvement to park user experience

Primary Focus Area – FY2023-24 Action Plan

Valley View Park

Summary: Valley View nature area had low visibility, the soft surface trail had numerous blind spots, and illicit activity

Strategy:

- ❖ Increased law enforcement presence
- ❖ Increased DPD presence (weekend patrol)
- ❖ Cleared privet and opened up the natural areas for better visibility
- ❖ Removed brush along access road for higher visibility of pedestrian and vehicular traffic
- ❖ Collaborated with Friends of Valley View Park to activate the park
- ❖ Collaborated with Maintenance District, Forestry and Conservation Teams
- ❖ Addressed litter and debris
- ❖ Improved soft surface trails
- ❖ Two (2) Weeks, twice daily visits from Park Rangers and Marshals

Outcome:

- ✓ 8 Alcohol/Drug/Lewdness (Marshals)
- ✓ 4 Arrests (Marshals)
- ✓ Reduction of encampments
- ✓ Increased park user visits
- ✓ Decreased number of encampments
- ✓ Noticeable improvement to park user experience

Primary Focus Area – FY2023-24 Action Plan

William Blair, Jr. Park

Summary: William Blair, Jr. had frequent vehicular violations and illicit activity

Strategy:

- ❖ Increased law enforcement presence
- ❖ Increased DPD presence (weekend patrol initiated by DPD)
- ❖ Addressed litter and debris
- ❖ Partnered with the Blair Family for Juneteenth event
- ❖ Keep Southern Dallas Beautiful - Clean Park Initiative
- ❖ Two (2) Weeks, twice daily visits from Park Rangers and Marshals

Outcome:

- ✓ 19 Alcohol/Drug/Parking Violations (Marshals)
- ✓ 5 Arrests (Marshals)
- ✓ Noticeable improvement to park user experience

Primary Focus Area – FY2023-24 Action Plan

Old East Dallas Work Yard

Summary: Old East Dallas Work Yard had frequent encampments and illicit activity

Strategy:

- ❖ DPD Installed flock camera on Fitzhugh Ave. directed towards the intersection of Fitzhugh Ave and Santa Fe Ave
- ❖ PKR installed security cameras
- ❖ Upgraded Security lighting
- ❖ Nancy Lieberman Sports Court Installation
- ❖ Two (2) Weeks, twice daily visits from Park Rangers and Marshals

Outcome:

- ✓ 3 Alcohol Citations (Marshals)
- ✓ 2 Arrests (Marshals)
- ✓ Provided more play spaces and experiences for park users, with an emphasis on the youth
- ✓ Noticeable improvement to park user experience

Primary Focus Area – FY2023-24 Action Plan

Civic Garden

Summary: Civic Garden had frequent illicit activity to include sleeping, smoking and alcohol/drug consumption

Strategy:

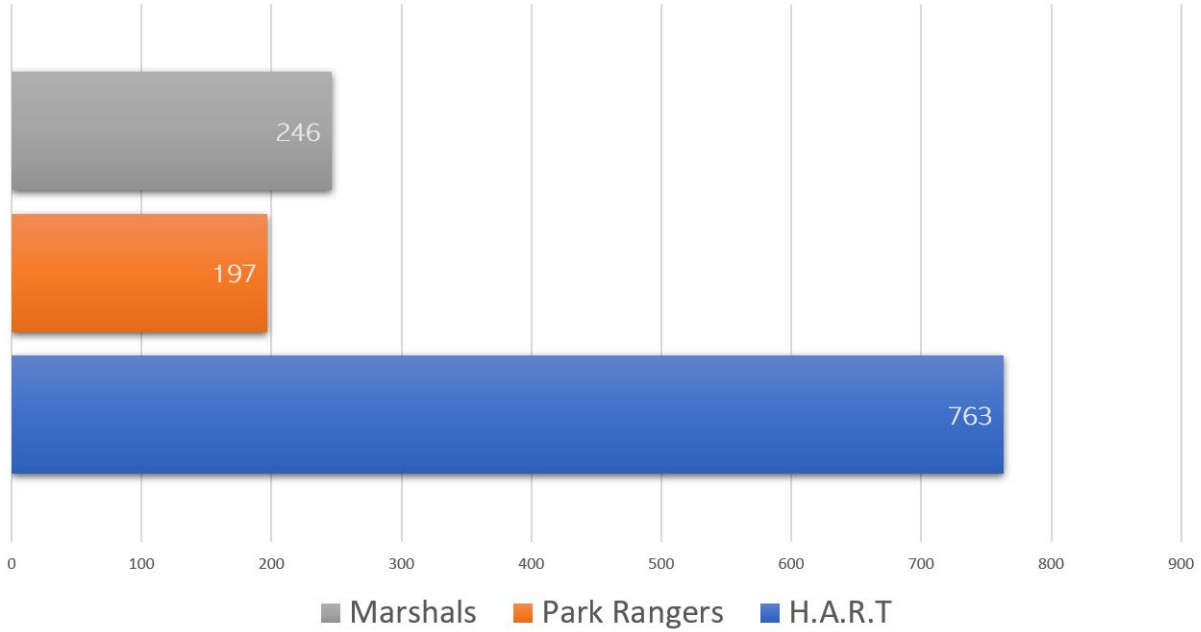
- ❖ Collaborated with Downtown Dallas, Inc., DPD, and Marshals
- ❖ Collaborated with the Metropolitan residents
- ❖ Security lighting upgrades
- ❖ Facilitated first National Night Out Event
- ❖ 90-day strategy with increased visibility from Park Rangers and Marshals

Outcome:

- ✓ 27 Sleeping/Smoking/Alcohol/Parking Violations (Marshals)
- ✓ 3 Arrests (Marshals)
- ✓ Increased visibility for monitoring and safety for park patrons
- ✓ Decreased overnight sleeping
- ✓ Noticeable improvement to park user experience

Primary Focus Area – H.A.R.T Action Plan

Number of Park Visits for Encampments Fiscal Year 2023-2024



Background

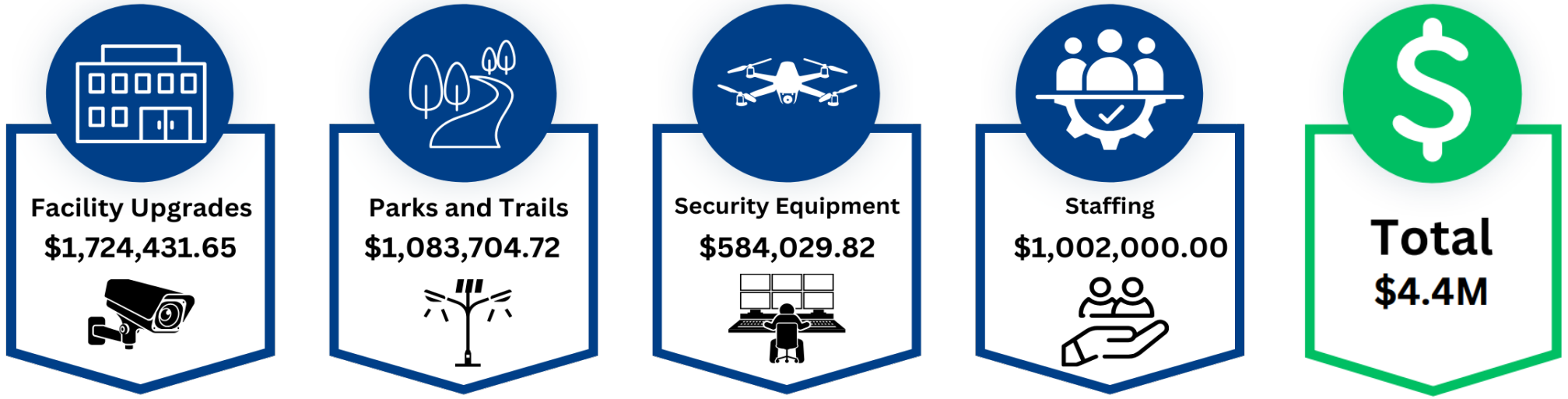
- Dallas Park and Recreation Department, Office of Homeless Solutions Outreach (OHS), Dallas Animal Services and the Dallas Police Department collaborate to address the homeless encampments on park property.
- $106,000 was allocated/expended for encampment resolution services for fiscal year 2023-24 (administrative/staff labor and contracted services).
- Emergency homeless encampment cleanings are managed by the H.A.R.T Program to respond to encampments on Park property.

Primary Focus Area

EQUIPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE INVENTORY PROGRESS REPORT

Investments and tangible resources that support enhancing safe park facilities

Combined Total of ARPA-Funded Infrastructure Installations & 2024 Bid Enhancement Funded Lighting and Cameras



Primary Focus Area

EQUIPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE INVENTORY PROGRESS REPORT

ARPA-Funded infrastructure installations

Project Scope and Budget

$2.58M

Total Budget

(Complete Surveillance System, Signs, and Enhanced Lighting / Fixtures)

58

Locations

(Parks, Trails, Pools, Golf Courses and Recreational Centers)

Installation Progress

1 — Complete
43 locations fully completed

2 — Installed, Needs Power
11 locations awaiting electrical connection

3 — Needs Pole and Power
4 locations require full infrastructure

Primary Focus Area

EQUIPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE INVENTORY PROGRESS REPORT

(13) ARPA Completed Security Lighting	
Location	Amount
Everglade Park	$106,153.24
Katie Jackson Park	$104,821.30
Samuell Grand Park	$134,026.18
Royal Park	$135,415.90
Cedar Run Park	$59,988.99
Weichsel Park	$62,473.06
Devon Anderson	$39,024.17
Urbandale Park	$13,347.72
Moore Park	$3,083.93
Willie Mae Butler	$8,991.26
Northaven Trail	$9,758.10
Old East Dallas Park	$10,021.92
IC Harris	$103,946.76

(24) ARPA Completed Surveillance	
Location	Amount
Bahama Beach	$75,198.41
Kids Springs Recreation	$61,631.88
Eloise Lundy Recreation	$53,744.31
Viewing Solution Aquatics	$51,978.00
Grauwyler Recreation	$50,403.94
Jaycee Zaragoza Recreation	$36,913.70
KB Polk Park	$35,972.49
Marcus Annex Recreation	$53,782.22
Beckley Saner Recreation	$52,893.61
Lake Highlands Recreation	$49,680.07
Samuel Grand Recreation	$67,270.70
Fireside Recreation	$47,137.54
IC Harris Service	$140,852.86
Southern Skates	$63,175.39
Churchill Recreation	$54,727.13
Anita Martinez Recreation	$56,277.06
JC Turner Park	$68,736.75
Kiest Senior Recreation	$25,761.52
Walnut Hill Recreation	$69,394.82
Harry Stone Recreation	$68,694.45
Cummings Recreation	$56,846.45
Kleberg Rylie Recreation	$60,521.41
Viewing Solution PKR Locations	$224,205.00
Pleasant Oaks Park	$59,550.60

Primary Focus Area

EQUIPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE INVENTORY PROGRESS REPORT

2024 Bid Enhancement Funded Projects			
Location	**Project Description**	**Amount**	**Status**
West Trinity Heights	New Solar lights	$19,398.00	Complete
Northaven Trail @ Freda Stern trailhead	New Solar lights	$12,354.00	Complete
Civic Garden	New security lighting and repair of existing lighting	$6,247.64	Complete
Southern Skates	Upgraded lighting to LED and added parking lot lighting	$5,051.20	Complete
Tipton Park	Upgraded lighting (retro fit) and added parking lot lighting	$58,070.55	Complete
Nash/Davis Park	New lighting at splash pad and playground	$5,539.33	Complete
JJ Craft Park	New lighting at loop trail	$68,148.30	Scheduled
St Francis Park	New lighting at parking lot, basketball court, and general security	$13,692.87	Complete
South Central Park	New lighting in parking lot	$10,851.18	Complete
20 Emergency Blue Light Tower Phone	Replaced with 20 security cameras + servers	$232,380.46	In Progress
Three (3) Camera Trailers	Allocated to the Park Rangers	$153,148.80	Complete
Seven (7) Mountain Bikes	Allocated to the Park Rangers & Marshals	$10,299.57	Complete
One (1) Utility Task Vehicle (UTV)	Allocated to the Park Rangers	$22,470.61	Complete
One (1) UTV	Allocated to the Marshals	$36,520.32	Complete
One (1) UTV Transport Trailer	Allocated to the Marshals	$15,454.06	Complete
Two (2) F-150 Patrol Trucks	Allocated to the Marshals	$160,291.30	Complete
Four (4) F-150 Truck	Allocated to the Park Rangers	$183,345.16	Complete
Drone	Allocated to the Marshals	$2,500.00	Complete
8 Deputy City Marshals positions	Staff positions: 1 Seargent; 7 Deputy City Marshal	$742,000.00	Complete
4 Park Ranger positions	Staff positions: 4 Park Rangers	$260,000.00	Complete

Primary Focus Area

EQUIPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE INVENTORY PROGRESS REPORT

Mountain Bike

10 Park Rangers
7 Marshals

Camera Trailer

3 Marshals

Drone

1 Marshal

UTV

1 UTV (Marshals)
1 UTV (Park Ranger)

Primary Focus Area

SAFETY STRATEGY GUIDELINES PROGRESS REPORT

Formulate robust strategies that foster environments where customers view park facilities to be safe and inviting

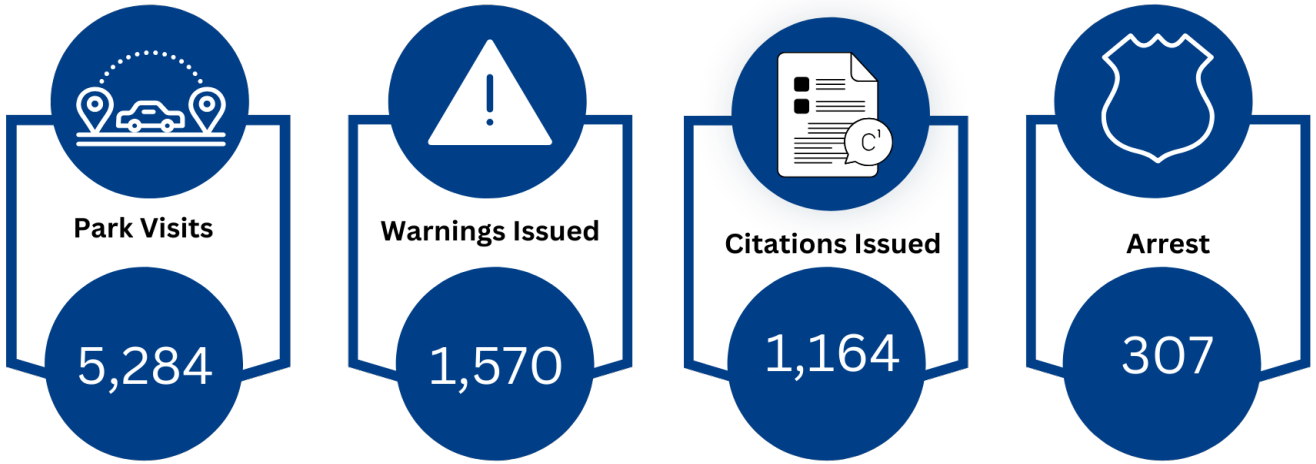
Implemented Trail Safety Strategies

- ✓ Trail Safety Checkpoints
- ✓ Updating Trail Etiquette
- ✓ Trail Safety PSAs
- ✓ First Watch Schedule – Started September 2024 (Labor Day Weekend) – 11P-7A

Primary Focus Area

SAFETY STRATEGY GUIDELINES PROGRESS REPORT

Dallas Marshal's Patrol - FY23-24

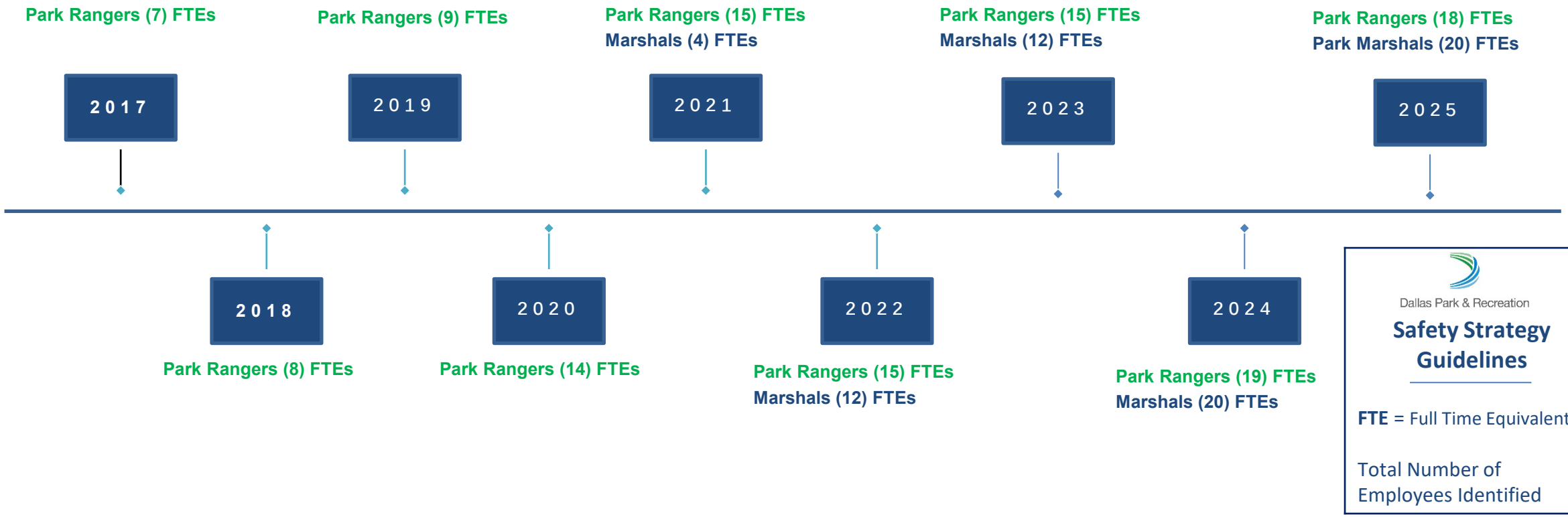


Marshal's Reimbursement
$856,918.08

DPD's Reimbursement
$597,382.54

Primary Focus Area

SAFETY STRATEGY GUIDELINES PROGRESS REPORT



Dallas Park & Recreation

Safety Strategy Guidelines

FTE = Full Time Equivalent

Total Number of Employees Identified

Primary Focus Area

SAFETY STRATEGY GUIDELINES PROGRESS REPORT

Raising tree canopies and clearing invasive species such as privet and brush has significantly improved the safety and security of parks and trails. Our vegetation management approach enhances visibility, improving site lines to prevent potential threats, and ultimately fosters a positive and welcoming environment for park and trail users.

Park Name	Approximate Size	Volunteer Group
Crawford	4 acres	Cons Team Tractor
Kiest Conservation	0.2 acres	Boy Scouts
Cheyenne	1.1 acres	D2 Staff
Tokalon	0.1 acres	UTSW Med
Lakewood	0.07 acres	TCA
WRL - Sunset Bay	0.18 acres	Deloitte
WRL - Big Thicket	0.08 acres	Boy Scouts
Buckeye Trail	1.0 acres	Trin Coalition
Harry S Moss	0.15 acres	BSA-EcoTeens
Bachman Greenbelt	0.25 acres	Friends of Bachman Lake-Gables
Joppa Preserve	0.27 acres	Dallas County
Woods at Valley View	0.25 acres	Friends of Valley View

Future Investments and Strategies

FY 2024-25	
	Future Investments
FY24/25	Installation of Surveillance Cameras
	Acquire Camara Trailers
	Continue to install cameras and lighting infrastructure
	Purchase Digital Messaging Board Trailers
	Safety and Security Database Dashboard Build
	PKR Security Consultant Services
	Develop a standard operation procedure for PKR camera monitoring Q2

FY 2025-26	
	Future Investments
FY25/26	Fusion Center Camera Monitoring
	Implement and conduct regular safety audits and community engagement sessions in target park areas
	Continue to strengthen partnerships with local law enforcement agencies, including the DPD, DART, Code Compliance, and DISD
	Regularly analyze data to identify trends, assess program effectiveness, and inform future strategies
	Aim to reduce reported incidents of crime and vandalism within the park
	Improve public perception of safety in parks

Next Steps

- Continue to implement input from the Safety Ad Hoc Committee
- Continue to execute strategic plan as outlined
- Provide budget priorities for future investments and strategies
- Provide periodic status updates to Park Board and City Council

City of Dallas

Park Safety and Security Strategic Plan

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